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The OIB

The Ohio Independent Baptist

The Newsletter of the Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches

Vol. 72 No. 2

April 1999

Vision

Without A

This issue of the OIB is dedicated to vision, mission and purpose statements. Their central value in any organization is that they keep people focused on the main tasks of the group. Rabbit trails and sidetracks drain off

much energy that should be invested in these core activities. Vision statements remind us that the good is always the enemy of the best.

Our OARBC vision statement is no exception. It brings us back to what we are all about:

"We are the OARBC. We are dedicated to the building of New Testament churches committed to fulfilling the Great Commission locally and throughout the world. No one of our churches can accomplish this alone. We draw together to strengthen and sharpen one another through mutual encouragement and edification. As a fellowship we will impact our state and the world for Christ."

Obviously, the Great Commission is our mission. In Matthew 28 the Lord taught us to evangelize, baptize, and catechize. Evangelism results in salvation; baptism results in identification; catechism results in education. Each church is both a lighthouse and a

schoolhouse; we are to reach all we can and teach all we reach.

Our vision must be both local and universal. We are interested in the whole state of Ohio and the whole world. The light that shines farthest away shines brightest at home.

We stress interdependence

while honoring independence. We are autonomous Baptist groups who realize, not begrudgingly, that we actually need each other to accomplish the task. We are glad to have each other; we like each other. Voluntary cooperation and friendship are the hallmarks of our polity.

We are out to make an impact for Christ not merely an impression about ourselves. We want to make a difference for Christ in this world. We are not stuck on ourselves but on **Him**. In a sense, Christ Himself is our entire vision and mission! He is worth all the focused effort and attention we can muster!

--DW

In This Issue

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Use pencil, e-mail or fax,
but get your news to us
by
April 15
for the next OIB!



HATS OFF

To John & Carol Moosey,
celebrating **25 years**
of ministry at Whipple
Avenue Baptist, Canton,
and commendations to the church
for recognizing this achievement.

From Our Heart To Yours



Dave and Pat
Warren

As Pat and I have travelled around the state, we have been pleased to sense the vision that our people have for godly living and ministry. Whether we call these mission, vision, or purpose statements,

we are happy to see that our people have goals for living and ministry. This issue is dedicated to more thinking in this area, stimulating one another to meaningful living, "and so much the more" as we "see the day approaching."

Pastor Brian Kenyon has written a vision statement for his own life. He shares that with you on page 4. We were also pleased to read the Wolf Family Mission Statement hanging in their home and to learn how Tom,

Nancy and their children arrived at this.

Taken together, all of you have encouraged us to review our own lives and ministries and put our own mission statements in writing—our individual ones, ours as a couple, and now as your state representatives. We share these with you, as your friends, willing to expose ourselves and our hearts to you, as you have been doing with us, realizing that we will only fulfil them by the grace of God.

As Individuals

Dave

1. To find and follow the will of God for my life
2. To be as much like Christ as possible
3. To be the best teacher of the Bible and to serve as an example for my students (II Tim. 2:2)
4. To have a good reputation among the brethren with a good character to match
5. Avoiding legalism on the one hand and license on the other, to enjoy the liberty we have in Christ.

Pat

Out of a sense of debt to Christ and a sense of His love for all people, as well as a sense of the brevity of my own life and lifetime opportunities, and a gratefulness for His giving us purpose in living, I want my life to count for Him, with attitudes mirrored by Mary's words of submission, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it unto me according to thy Word," and with actions motivated by wholeheartedness, "whatsoever thy hands find to do, do it with thy might" (Eccl. 9:10), and "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (Heb. 12:2).

As A Couple

Our desire as a couple is to serve the Lord together, to love each other, to make our home a blessing to others, to live balanced lives that accurately reflect the goals and concerns of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, and to provide a consistent model for our children to follow in personal integrity, Christian service, and Biblical relationships.

The words of this song were used at our wedding ceremony.

Submission

*"Not what I wish to be,
nor where I wish to go,
For who am I
that I should choose my way,
The Lord shall choose for me,
'Tis better far I know,
So let Him bid me go - or stay."*

As Your Representatives

As representatives for the OARBC, we purpose to serve as a model for our pastors and churches in personal integrity and ministry and to enhance the effectiveness of the OARBC, by promoting the interdependence of our churches one with another, by encouraging individual pastors and their wives for the work of the ministry, by fostering theological balance in the emphases of our churches, by encouraging our churches to reach out to their communities and teach all they reach, and by fortifying our churches to be strongholds for missionaries and missions around the world.

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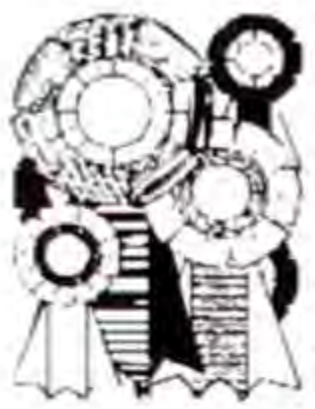
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Dave says:

Share Your Seattle Conference Plans with us:

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☐ We're going!

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call 937-766-5913



Talents For Christ '99
will soon be here!
Encourage your teens
as they prepare for the
April 17 contest.

Congratulations to **Grace Baptist, Cedarville**, upon completion of their Family Life Center. David Graham, Mickey Farlow and Jeff Sanders minister together at Grace.

The Mission, Purpose & Vision of Ohio Churches

Our thanks to these churches who shared their statements with us.

“The purpose of the Fostoria Baptist Church is to bring glory to God in worship, discipleship (evangelism) and fellowship. Since it is the Word of God which provides for man’s heartfelt needs, it will be the priority of this church to know and make known the truths of the Scriptures. Thus people will be brought to Christ, mature in Christ and witness for Christ.”
--Fostoria Baptist, Fostoria
David Chapman, senior pastor

“Our purpose statement is located at the bottom front of almost every bulletin. It reads:
‘Emmanuel’s purpose is to honor God and love people into a responsive and growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Matthew 22:36 - 40’”
--Emmanuel Baptist, Xenia
R. William Wheeler, senior pastor

“To worship and experience God, to love and care for each other and help one another grow spiritually, equipping believers for ministry in the local church and throughout the world, to lead people to a personal relationship with Jesus.”
--Grand Heights, Fairborn
Randall Tate, pastor

“We have tried to develop a statement that both broadly and with specificity captures our mission in terms of both outreach and edification. The mission statement of John Piper’s church, Bethlehem Baptist, in Minnesota helped to guide our thinking. Here it is:
‘To spread a passion for the glory of God for the joy of all peoples.’”
--Chardon Baptist, Chardon
Jeffrey Mackey, pastor

Vision:
Growing in God’s Word...Sowing in Our World. This vision will be realized by accomplishing our five-fold purpose of existence:
Exalting: Through personal and corporate worship that pleases God
Edifying: Through building, strengthening, maturing and encouraging believers in Christ
Equipping: Through teaching/training believers to become active ministers for Christ
Evangelizing: Through our efforts to influence our community for and toward Christ
Extending: Through our efforts to reach our state, nation, and world for Christ.
--Faith Baptist, Streetsboro
Don Workman, senior pastor

“The Mission of Washington Heights Baptist Church is to glorify God as a family of Christian believers devoted to Christ’s mission of salvation in our community and worldwide with a growing love for God, the Bible and our neighbors.”
--Washington Heights, Dayton
David Kisner, senior pastor

“The programs and ministries of our local church are designed to help you personally know the Lord Jesus Christ and understand the salvation He offers, encourage you to spiritually grow in knowledge and submission to God’s revealed Word, and equip you to serve Him as a Child of God. Come and worship with us.”
--Grace Baptist, Kent
Bruce Chouinard, senior pastor

Our church exists to glorify God by making disciples who love Christ, love one another, and live to reach the world for Christ. This implies a two-fold ministry of evangelism and education. By evangelism we mean reaching non-Christians with the gospel of Christ. By education we mean teaching those who have come to faith in Christ to obey all that he has commanded. We intend to accomplish this by:
1. Evangelizing
2. Edifying
3. Equipping
4. Encouraging
--Bailey Road Baptist, North Jackson
Lester Webster, senior pastor

“The purpose of Emmanuel Baptist Church shall be:
1. To evangelize the lost through personal soul-winning, visitation and preaching of the Word of God;
2. To edify believers through the systematic teaching of the Bible;
3. To establish fundamental Baptist churches around the world through an energetic missionary program;
4. To carry out the scriptural responsibilities of an autonomous Baptist church in accordance with the principles of God’s Word;
5. To earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints (Jude 3, 4).
--Emmanuel Baptist, Marysville
Jim Ruck, pastor

- “MAGNIFYING Christ through worship and the Word.
- MAKING Christ known to our neighbors and the nations.
- MOVING believers toward Christlike maturity and ministry.”
--Faith Baptist, Mount Vernon
Merlyn Jones, senior pastor

The Value of A Family Mission Statement

by Tom Wolf

Is vision essential to survival? This I thought stopped me dead in my tracks as I worked on writing my company's mission statement. I knew that a mission statement is a widely used tool in corporate America, but what about my family's mission? Is vision or mission essential to the survival of the family? Had we, as a family, defined what we considered to be the most important things to us? How were we planning to instill those values and promises of God into our children's lives? Where were we going, how were we going to get there, and how would we know when we arrived? True vision is looking at life through God's eyes. God has already designed his mission for the family. What we needed to do was take ownership of it!

Having a vision is more than essential; it is critical to accomplishing God's best. Today our mission statement is displayed in a prominent location, just as Moses and the Israelites kept a jar of manna as a memorial of God's provision. A written statement provides a framework for the family to make decisions and proves as a compass for the hard choices. Stephen Covey, in his book, *Seven Habits of Highly Effective Families*, says it so well: "If families can define what their lives are about, it's amazing how much more wisdom and perspective they gain on their lives, and how easy it is to say no to the unimportant things."

We are exhorted to "be of the same mind toward one another," "knowing that a house divided against itself cannot stand." A mission statement allows us to evaluate all that we do to keep our focus and vision aligned with what God desires of us. Through our family mission statement, we realized what was most important to God: full-time missionary service. Today we find ourselves on the journey of a lifetime, in full unity. We have just entered pre-field ministry as God prepares us to reach the people of Cape Town, South Africa.

We started the process over a summer vacation. As we were driving a long highway stretch, I started

asking the girls questions about what they thought was most important to our family. They needed to share in the vision so they would sense a level of accountability, not just to each other, but to their Lord. We hung the first draft on the refrigerator and edited it many times before we all agreed on the final copy. We claimed one verse of Scripture in particular, John 17: 21, and from it we created a logo: "ONE R WE." It graces our van license plates as a constant reminder of our unity as a family and God's plan for our lives.



Front row: Lyndsey, Tom & Nancy
Back row: Chelsea, Morgan & Tara

From the last part of our family mission statement, God pierced our hearts for world missions. It says that "we will then minister to others, reflecting our faith in Christ."

Sounds like the great commission. And indeed it is. When we are united as a family we can't help but reach out to a lost world who needs to hear about Jesus and His saving grace.

Life With A Focus

by Brian Kenyon

Life is too short to waste time on projects and activities that have no eternal perspective. We sing songs like, "Eternity's Values in View," yet many of us wander aimlessly, wasting many precious years doing nothing for God.

If I were to ask you, why do you exist and how do you want to be remembered when you die, what would you say? It is only when I can clearly articulate the answer to these questions that I will begin to live with direction and focus.

If I believe the chief aim of man is to glorify God, then I must ask what brings glory to Him and how I can make the most of the time He has given me on this earth. The Apostle Paul helps us to distinguish what brings glory to God and how he himself stayed focused on that task. It is from Paul that I adopted my own life's purpose statement. "And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man

and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ. And for this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me" (Colossians 1:28-29). I found the answer to why I exist and how I can bring glory to God in these verses.

I exist to proclaim Christ, confront sin, and teach godly wisdom to men so that we will be mature disciples of Christ.

When I wake every day and remember my reason for existence and purpose for that day, I won't be distracted and grope aimlessly for what God desires of my life. I will look forward to each new day to accomplish God's will for my life.

A life with a focus on ministry for Christ is a life that counts for eternity.

Our Family Mission "ONE R WE"

More than anything else, it is our desire that this WolfPack be built around God's plan, purpose, and pleasure for the family. We will honor Him in everything we do, because "ONE R WE" in spirit and purpose.

We are committed to worship, prayer and personal growth, and will make them a priority in our daily habits. Our purpose is to support and encourage one another, be united in love, and to trust God in all that we do.

We promise to cultivate a loving, honest and respectful atmosphere in our home, where we have fun, grow closer to each other, and our Savior. As a family and individually, we will then minister to others, reflecting our faith in Christ.

Purpose-Driven Ministries

"Mission statements are often perceived as mere words with little meaning. We must go beyond the words to the people — the lives that are affected by these words."

Skyview Ranch

Skyview Ranch exists to serve and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ by serving as a supporting arm of local churches for the presentation of God's Truth for the purpose of evangelizing, discipling and motivating individuals to return and serve the Lord.

Mission statements are often perceived as mere words with little meaning. They are more than the defining purpose, direction, and measuring stick for an organization. We must go beyond the words to the people—the lives that are affected by these words. When we consider this, the words begin to take on a whole new and precious meaning.

"Evangelizing, discipling, and motivating individuals to return and serve the

Lord." These words mean so much more if you consider how many have received Christ as Savior, learned and grown in their faith, and made life-changing resolves at Skyview Ranch. How many of you were one of these "individuals" that God changed through your experience here? To many of us, the work God is doing at Skyview is part of our personal testimony.

We are energized and excited about the approaching summer. With the addition of another youth week, many young people's lives will be changed this summer. Our summer theme will be "Take up your cross and follow me." Now is the time to get those registrations in for camp this summer. Don't delay!

Camp Patmos

Why should we give of ourselves, our time, our money, our sacred honor to perpetuate Camp Patmos? It is because of our mission! The trustees of Patmos defined our Mission to be:

A. Challenging campers to know the Lord Jesus Christ and live for Him.

B. Providing an atmosphere for fellowship and encouragement. A teenager's mother phoned a couple weeks after her son had attended Patmos to say, "Jack came home a different boy! Thank you for your ministry." That's what we view as our mission.

Of the unsaved children and young people enrolled for one week at Patmos, 95-98% of them will return home as born-again believers. THAT IS OUR MISSION!

Over our 47-year history, many young people have found their life's partner at Camp Patmos. THAT TOO IS OUR MISSION!

Everyone who comes to Patmos must come across 3 to 10 miles of Lake Erie. The ferryboat or airplane ride is just part of the experience. Once there you enjoy the privacy and the romance that travel over Lake Erie to an island affords. When on the island, you are still three miles from Patmos. An open tram carries you the final leg of the journey. That, too, is special.

We have some excellent facilities: a brand new junior Olympic-sized swimming pool, five speed boats, ten sailboats, a sand

volleyball court, blacktop basketball court and volleyball court, 25 single and 12 tandem bikes (and a two mile by five mile flat island to ride them on), putt-putt course, softball/kickball diamond and more.

Patmos provides a perfect setting to make new friends and a place to get to know old friends better.

Camp Patmos has been ministering for 47 years, each year trying to do our job a little better!

Scioto Hills

Mission Statement: Scioto Hills is an arm of the local church in which a Christ-centered program in an outdoor setting is used to develop the guest (spiritually, mentally, physically and socially) in accordance to the Word of God.

Excitement is mounting as the final preparations are being made for Summer '99. We have a great start on a new interactive playground that will be a great addition to the Junior program schedule. Come and discover Scioto Hills, "A Place for you to Grow!!" www.sciotohills.com

Cedarville College

Purpose: to offer students an education consistent with biblical truth.

Objectives:

1. To undergird the student in the fundamentals of the Christian faith, and to stimulate him to evaluate knowledge in the light of scriptural truth.
2. To encourage growth in Christian character in each student, and to help the student accept his responsibility in faithful Christian service.
3. To increase the student's awareness of the world of ideas and events which are influencing our contemporary culture, and to prepare the student to knowledgeably participate in our society.
4. To enable the student to develop sound critical and analytical reasoning.
5. To provide sufficient opportunities for students to practice the skills of communication.
6. To offer opportunities for academic specialization and preparation for graduate study, and to assist the student in selecting and preparing for a vocation.
7. To foster the student's appreciation of, and participation in, wholesome avocational and cultural activities.

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As You Go...

The water fountain at the place where I work in the Portsmouth area had given me a point of contact with a co-worker. I was burdened for her need of salvation, so during a break time the Lord opened an opportunity for me to tell her of Jesus. There at the water fountain I shared with a thirsty friend the answer to her greatest need. What a joy was mine several days later to join hands with her as my pastor led her to Christ.

As you go through the regular routines of life, always be ready to share Christ with a spiritually thirsty world (Matthew 28:19).

--edited by David Chapman

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Cedarville College News



News Director
Chad Bresson

Kay Coles James, dean of the Robertson School of Government at Regent University, presented the annual Staley Lectures January 19-21. Mrs. James' lectures were on the theme Christians in the Public Arena. In addition to the presentations during the chapel hour, Mrs. James interacted with students, encouraging their awareness of and intentional engagement in the culture wars currently being fought in society.

On January 22, Chad Bresson, news director for WCDR-FM, received the Christian Family Network's Friend of the Family Award for his balanced, timely reporting of issues that impact the pro-family movement. WCDR-FM is the Miami Valley outlet of the CDR Radio Network, a listener-supported ministry of Cedarville College.

Growing In Grace

--This article is the first in a series on
discipleship written by members of the
Council of 12.

What happens to a person after he or she accepts Christ as their Savior? Is just receiving the Lord all there is to it? Is that the end of the story?

Not hardly! In fact we know from God's Word that being saved is only the beginning of what Christ does in a believer's life. This column, *Growing In Grace*, will begin a series of articles from pastors who share experiences, struggles, decisions, and things that happen to individuals and families. These are the things that make the difference between just professing our Savior and becoming a "disciple" of our Lord. Being born into God's family is a wonderful experience but like birth in the earthly family, it is the growth process that concerns parents. We pray these short articles will help you and your family identify with other believers in the process of becoming "disciples" for your Savior.

--Dale Byers

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What a ministry!

Might God be encouraging you to be used of Him by adopting one such child? Wouldn't it be God-honoring if 100 of these children every year could be adopted into fundamental Christian homes in Ohio?

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North Madison

On February 21st, **Bible Baptist Church**

celebrated the burning of their mortgage. The congregation celebrated first by enjoying a catered dinner in the reception hall.

After the dinner, the congregation went to the sanctuary for a multimedia presentation honoring the sacrifice of those who had given of their lives over the years to the ministry. Older members of the congregation shared some of the 185 year history of the church in Madison. Following the message by Dr. David Warren, the congregation assembled on the front lawn for the mortgage burning and a balloon send-off. The church members also rejoiced in the fact that they saved \$40,000 in interest payments by paying off the mortgage four years early.

Robert Ladygo is senior pastor at North Madison.



Mortgage burning at Lorain

Loraine

On January 24, **Fellowship Baptist** praised God as they burned the mortgage on their Christian Family Center, a 10,000 square foot building which

was constructed in the summer of 1995. The mortgage was paid up more than eleven years early. The building houses the AWANA program, Sunday school classes and a fellowship room.

Jack Ison is pastor at Fellowship Baptist.

Huntsburg

David Johnson, senior pastor at **Huntsburg Baptist**, writes, "In 1998 our church voted to accept a vision for 'a renewed and refreshed interest and

commitment to the reaching and teaching of our local serving community.' We have seen the Lord bless our church in many ways this past year. As a part of our vision, we as a church voted to begin the search for an associate pastor who would focus primarily on the youth of our community.

We are pleased to announce that as of January 1, 1999, Todd Lozier has joined our staff as associate pastor. It is our prayer that God would use him to help us fulfill our goal of impacting our community for Christ. Todd is a graduate of Cedarville College and did a summer internship here in 1997."

Marysville

Pastor Jim Ruck reports another good year with growth continuing at **Emmanuel Baptist**. Five were baptized in the fall of 1998, as November marked the church's fifth

anniversary.

Recently the Abundant Life Singers from Cedarville College and Bill Roloff, director of Skyview Ranch, ministered at Emmanuel.

Cincinnati

On March 6, **Norwood Baptist** hosted the Word of Life District "Teens Involved." Over 450 were present from Ohio and as far away as Tennessee.

Max Tucker is senior pastor at Norwood Baptist.

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Quiet Time For The Whole Family?

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Ohio Women

The Sad Little Church Van

by Sue Miller

Our story does not begin as most stories do, "Once upon a time." Rather, it begins...

At the present time, somewhere in Ohio, there is a sad little church van named Vance. Vance looks like your typical church van. He's a 12-15 passenger, and he has the name and address of his OARB church painted on each side.

Vance loves his ministry. He's thrilled when filled to capacity and used for the Lord. Like all church vans his engine was made to hum right along when his tiny passengers sing "The wheels on the bus go round and round" or older saints blend their hearts and voices and sing, "When we all get to heaven."

Vance went for a check-up recently. His mechanic said Vance's motor was purring, there were no unusual "pings," and with only a few minor adjustments, Vance could go just about anywhere. You would think that would make him one of the happiest church vans in Ohio, but he isn't. As a matter-of-fact, sometimes at night when he's parked all alone in his garage, he just lets the windshield washer fluid run down the corners of his blades and on down through the treads of his tires to the cold concrete floor.

You see, Vance doesn't get to go to the OWMU meetings in the spring and fall, and he wants to so badly. He hears from his buddies around the state about how wonderful those trips and meetings are.

His friend, Vince, from Fostoria, tells Vance how Joanne keeps everybody laughing, and how Linda, the driver, takes him to McDonald's on the way home.

Victor, from Gallipolis, says he chuckles when the women from First Baptist say to their friends and family members as they leave, "See you SOMETIME!" Then they giggle. Vladimir, from Grace Baptist in Cedarville, isn't sure that's so funny since his ladies keep locking the keys inside him. He's hoping someone has an extra set made before they go to Akron. It's embarrassing to be the van that always has to call for help. Vance was told by V.J., Bowling Green's van, that it's positively

wonderful to pull into the church parking lot for an OWMU meeting and line up alongside your "co-laborers" from all over Ohio. Ed, from Norton, agrees. That's why he's hoping he'll get to go this spring even though it's only a hop, skip and a jump to Brown Street Baptist.

Now you understand better why Vance is so sad. It's no fun to miss out on such good times. He wants to be a part of such sweet fellowship.

So, if your church van seems a bit down, isn't humming along the highway as it should, and you know it has been a while since you ladies have let him take you to an OWMU rally, Vance could very well be your van.

Why not bring an end to Vance's sadness. Make him happy. Fill him up with women from your church (and your filled quarter-savers) and let him bring you to Akron in just a few days.

Hope to see you—and Vance—at Brown Street Baptist!



Celebrating
70
Years!

OWMU
Spring Meeting
April 20, 1999

Brown Street
Baptist Church
541 Brown Street
Akron OH 44311

Theme:
"For Such A Time As This...
Reaching Forth"

Speaker:
Marcia Elmore

Lunch & nursery provided

1999 Retreat Schedule

- Sept 9-11
Scioto Hills Camp
- September 16-18
Skyview Ranch
- November 11-12
Inn at Amish Door

Send filled quarter savers to
Mrs. Ruth Shoe
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